

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 946

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Riders In The Sky upon their fortieth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted artists who have experienced great success in the world of country music; and

WHEREAS, Riders In The Sky, one of the most historically significant acts in the history of American music, will celebrate their fortieth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry on June 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, when Riders In The Sky was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on June 19, 1982, the musicians became the first Opry cast members to fully represent the cowboy stylings that helped to put "Western" in "Country and Western" music; and

WHEREAS, established in late 1977, Riders In The Sky was originally formed as a trio consisting of guitarist Doug "Ranger Doug" Green, bassist Fred "Too Slim" Labour, and Paul "Woody Paul" Chrisman on the fiddle; the band released their debut album, *Three on the Trail*, in 1979, sharing their extraordinary musicianship and vocal talents; and

WHEREAS, following in the footsteps of Western music heroes like Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and the Sons of the Pioneers, Riders In The Sky performed wonderful traditional Western music along with a good side helping of cowboy comedy and fun during their live performances; and

WHEREAS, Riders In The Sky became a quartet after promoting longtime accordionist Joey "The Cowpolka King" Miskulin to full membership, and over the years, they have continued their extensive touring, produced a long-running radio show, *Riders Radio Theatre*, and released a string of popular recordings; and

WHEREAS, no strangers to awards or accolades, Riders In The Sky won Grammy awards in 2001 and 2003 for their two soundtrack companion releases, *Woody's Roundup* featuring Riders In The Sky for *Toy Story 2* and *Monsters Inc.: Scream Factory Favorites*; and

WHEREAS, Riders In The Sky has won six Western Music Association Entertainer of the Year trophies and been named the Academy of Western Artists' Western Music Group of the Year five times; each of the band members was inducted into the Western Music Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, this legendary group of performers is also among the honorees on the Country Music Foundation's Walkway of Stars in Nashville and the Walk of Western Stars in Newhall, California; and

WHEREAS, it is the dream of every country music performer to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry and perform on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry House, and it is most fitting that Riders In The Sky be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Riders In The Sky upon their fortieth anniversary as members of the Grand Ole Opry, commend their illustrious career, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.